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Short Circuits

TARC Newsletter

January, 2005

Titusville Amateur Radio Club
T. A. R. C
Titusville, Florida

Club Officers

President Bud Hughes, K4CWG 629-2796 k4cwg@cfl.rr.com	**Vice President** Jose` Ramos, KC4VIO 267-5892 kc4vio@yahoo.com	**Secretary-Treasurer** Becky Lee, KF4HTB 267-9375 lees@titusvillearc.org	PO Box 73 Titusville, FL 32781-0073
Board Member Pike Abell, W4EPU 269-4208 pikeatal@digital.net	**Board Member** John Renninger, KE4ZPA 267-9431 ke4zpa@gnc.net	**Board Member** Mic Woltman, KI4CFA 632-4601 mjwoltman@mindspring.com	**Board Member** Bob Farrington, W4YBI 633-5664 bobandlinda3@juno.com
146.91 Repeater Trustee Les Griner, K4SJC 267-1565	**146.97 Repeater Trustee** Warren Murray, W4CEL pager - 638-5476	**444.15 Repeater Trustee** Mike Hensley, W4LOV 639-1553	**147.775 Repeater Trustee** Ken Denman, KD4HNW 269-5711

January meeting on WEDNESDAY the 26th!!!!!!

TARC will abandon our traditional Tuesday evening meeting time this month only because of a conflict over our meeting room. All members are urged to mark their calendars for 7 PM, Wednesday January 26th. We'll be gathering at the Titusville Public Library at 2121 South Hopkins Avenue. There's a really good map to the library location on our website **www.titusvillearc.org.**

The President's Page by Bud Hughes K4CWG

There were several events that took place at our club's Xmas party on December 10th. Each year we select and vote on the person we believe to be worthy to hold the prestigious title of "Ham of The Year". The year 2004 provided a bumper crop of opportunities for the Ham of the year to stand up and be counted. We had more than our fair share of storms causing wide spread damage and suffering to so many of our citizens. During each of the storms many of our club numbers including the "Ham of The Year" left their home and spent full time in evacuation centers, shelters, hospitals, fire stations, and churches. Duties include providing communications to

The President's Page Con't

and from EOC as well as any other services needed within the facility. After the storms the same volunteers donated their time assisting in the distribution of food, water, and other necessities as needed by the affected storm survivors. We were blessed to have such a great team serving during those trying times and are grateful to have you on our team

Bob Farrington W4YBI was awarded the distinguished honor of "Ham of The Year". Our thanks and congratulations go to this gentleman who worked so hard for our community. Bob's efforts mirror the true spirit of Ham Radio.

Gary Johnson W4RBI won the "Soap-On-The Rope" trophy hands down. Somewhat strange is the criteria for winning this award seemed to have been based on who could tell the biggest and most convincing falsehood. The Soap-On-The Rope has nothing to do with the fact that as a youngster every time I told a lie (only when I was caught) I got my mouth washed out with soap. The biggest hit of the evening was an audio-visual presentation by Carole Ramos KC4VIN. "The Ballad of Jake McClusky" starred members of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club in roles you never imagined. Our thanks to Carole for the many months of hard work she put into the show. It was so good we had to play it twice!

Hope to see all of you at the Orlando Hamfest February 11,12 and 13. For members who have ham gear for sale, TARC has purchased two swap tables. Also the club has advance tickets @ $8.00 each ($2.00 less than at the gate).

If you wish to purchase an advance ticket contact Sherry at 269-2796.

Best to all, Bud K4CWG

Abell's Anecdotes by Pike Abell W4EPU

Wishing everyone a happy and prosperous year, Looking back for a moment - Many things happened in 2004, some tragic, some good and some downright disastrous. All are well document by the news media. That is, except one. A new Morse code character was created.

Around the year 1837 Samual Morse figured out that taking two electromagnets with sounder mechanisms attached, connecting them with a pair of wires and causing electric current to flow though the coils, when the electric current was interrupted the sounders would make a clicking noise. He also figured out that if the current interruptions were in some systematic manner it could actually carry intelligent information. With that in mind he developed the, what eventually became known as the International Morse code. It is used by cw operators to this day. Not since the WW-II era has there been any characters added. That is, not until the year 2004.

Abell's Anecdotes con't

OKAY, I'LL GET TO THE POINT! There is a particular character used in the English language that goes by a number of different names. It's been called a mercantile symbol, an arobase, a vortex, a whorl, a snail, a schnable and a cabbage, but most people simply call it the "at" sign. It's the little "a" with the circle: @..

The @ occupies a very important place in today's society because it is used in everyone's email address. CW operators have occasion to send e-mail addresses to each other. Until the creation of this new character, there was no way to correctly sent the "at" sign.

The International Telecommunications Union, who has jurisdiction over such matters, has created a Morse code character for the @. They have chosen "ac", an "a" and a "c" run together. (The underline denotes that the two letters are sent as one character.) In cw that's **dit-dah-dah-dit-dah-dit**. It is fitting that they chose those two letters. You see, if you look closely the circle around the "a" is not a complete circle. It is more like a "c". Therefore, "ac" is a very appropriate characterization of the @.

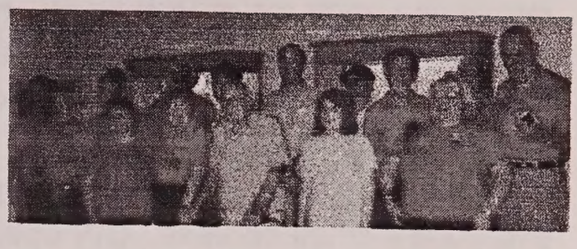
In closing, isn't it amazing what useful, as well as useless, information one can get simply by reading Abell's Anecdotes? Only you know which applies to you here. HEY, "Trivial Pursuit" may make a big comeback one of these days!

73s es 88s. Pike

Bill Eppley is honored by ARRL The ARRL has presented Bill Eppley W2SDB with a special certificate noting his 60 years of membership in the organization. Of course, we know Bill as the guy who plays the harmonica at the opening of our monthly meeting. That's just a fraction of his busy schedule. 90 year old Eppley plays regularly at Publix Stores on Merritt Island in order to raise money for his faviroite charity, The Children's Wish Foundation. Last year his tuneful appearances brought in more than $10,000. We are very proud to count Bill as a member of TARC.

Youth Net There's a brand new net on the 147.135 repeater. At 7:30 each Saturday evening young hams are urged to participate in the Youth Net. Senior operators are welcomed to check in as well, but the net is designed for an run by our growing group of licensed hams still enrolled in the public schools. We've been impressed how much these young operators helped during the hurricanes. Let's wish them well.

"Thank you" from the City of Titusville



More than a dozen members of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club were on hand Jan. 11th when the club was honored by the Mayor and City Council for their hard work during the 2004 hurricanes. One official described the storms as a "city under seige." The club delegation included Les Griner K4SJC, the oldest member to work as a shelter communicator, and Taylor Woltman KI4GMJ, who at age 10 was the youngest.

Silent Key Equipment

In November President Bud Hughes named a new committee to handle family requests to dispose of Silent Key equipment. The panel is headed by Pike Abell. Already it has gathered items from two silent shacks which are available to members of TARC and will be offered at the Orlando Ham Fest. Here is a list. Anything interest you?

Don Klein KC3RQ

TEN-TEC Omni Six HF Transceiver
power supply and accessories

Heathkit SB-200 Aplifier

Heathkit SB-610 Monitor

ICOM 3210A 2 Meter Transceiver

MFJ Model 464 CW Reader

MFJ 1278 Multimode Data Controller

Bird 4300-400 Watt Meter (2 Slugs)

Radio Shack DX 394 HF Receiver

Two 811A Vacuum Tubes

Bill Karr W9IOS

Yaesu FT-575GX HF Transceiver
power supply and accessories

Yaesu FT-2500M 2 Meter Radio

Yaesu FT-890 HF Xcvr w/mike

Radio Shack HTX 242 2 Meter

HK-5A CW Keyer

4 position antenna switch

Unidilla W2AU Lightning Arrester

CM-200 2 Meter SWR Meter

Royal SW-40 SWR Meter

This is just a partial list. We'll have a complete one at the next club meeting. There has been a lot of chatter about these items on two meters in recent days and several members have expressed interest in individual items. If you want to make an offer, please call Bud at 269-2796.

BEARS TAILGATE JANUARY 29TH

The Brevard Emergency Amateur Radio Service (BEARS) will be hosting a tailgate sale from 8 AM until Noon on Saturday, January 29th at the Florida Solar Energy Center at the corner of Clear Lake and Michigan in Cocoa. The cost is $5.00 if you want to sell from your tailgate, free if you come to buy. Parking is available next door at the Cocoa campus of Brevard Community College. Everybody is invited!

Secretary-Treasurer's Report By Becky Lee KF4HTB

Treasurers report

Beginning Balance	$2101.09
Deposits	4560.50
Total Income	6661.59
Expenditures	4089.93
Bal 12/31/04	2571.66

January Birthdays

1/5 KG4VFF CHRIS SIMPSON
1/6 KI4GMB JAMES DEAN
1/6 KG4RFT CHARLES DAILY
1/7 KC2ENO ART SMITH
1/8 WW4G BRIAN VAN ALSTINE
1/18 W4MYD DONALD NELSON
1/19 KI4GMC ROB DESANTI
1/20 KG4KVO ED WIRTH
1/21 KE4MFX KAY JORDON
1/23 KD4GPF JOE MYERS
1/23 KC4VIN CAROL RAMOS
1/26 NT0Y KENNETH FARIA
1/26 K4SJC LES GRINER
1/26 W8VTB VIRGIL BIRCHFIELD

DECEMBER MINUTES

Our Christmas party was held on Dec. 5 at Claudine's. It was one of the best ever. Clara KE4YQL did her usual good job, and the program was fun. The food was good, and a good time was had by all.

NEW MEMBERS (STUDENTS FROM ASTRONAUT CLASS)

KI4FGH PATRICK CANFIELD
KI4HVA NAOMI FARACE
KI4HVB BEN MARPLE
KI4HVC JOSH MOORE
KI4HVD GEORGE MURPHY III
KI4HVE WILLIAM POWELL III
KI4HVF JOSH ULBRIK

Membership Total - 171
106 Regular
35 Family
6 Honorary
1 Other
23 Students

Titusville Amateur Radio Club
P. O. Box 73
Titusville, FL 32781-0073

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Come to the January meeting on

WEDNESDAY

January 26th at the Titusville Library

2121 South Hopkins Avenue

Talk-in Frequency 146.91